

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07 DLOS-09 ACDA-07 CG-00

DOTE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 /116 W

-----017020 090126Z /63

R 081425Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1642

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6653

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, AG

SUBJECT: POLISARIO DELEGATION VISITS MADRID

REF: MADRID 6416, ALGIERS 2187

1. A SEVEN-MAN POLISARIO DELEGATION HAS BEEN IN MADRID THIS WEEK, MEETING WITH THE PARTIES SYMPATHETIC TO ITS CAUSE: THE PSOE (HEADED BY FELIPE GONZALEZ), SPAIN'S MAJOR SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION GROUP; THE MUCH SMALLER PSP OF TIerno GALVAN; AND THE PCE. OF THE THREE PARTIES, ONLY THE COMMUNISTS WENT PUBLIC, WITH BOTH A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PCE SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO CALLING FOR DENUNCIATION OF THE MADRID AGREEMENTS AND BLAMING THE ACCORDS FOR THE PRESENT "WAR" IN THE SAHARA. PRESS ACCOUNTS HAVE ONLY IDENTIFIED TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLISARIO DELEGATION, CALLING ONE OF THEM VARIOUSLY DACHIR OR BACHIR MUSTAFA EYID OR SAYID, AND THE OTHER (PRESUMABLY THE SAME PERSON) EITHER BUJALI AHMED OR AHMED BUJARI. ASSOCIATE MINISTER (FOR RELATIONS WITH THE CORTES) CAMUNAS RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR

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THAT THE PCE HAD PROPOSED TO HOLD MEETINGS WITH THE POLISARIO IN THE CORTES BUILDING (REF B). THE GOVT PUT ITS FOOT DOWN, HOWEVER: MEETING WITH THE POLISARIO WAS THE PCE'S BUSINESS, BUT CERTAINLY NOT IN THE CORTES.

2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT 6, THE LATTER REPRESENTATIVES DECLARED (ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS) THAT THE POLISARIO

DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPAIAC (CANARY INDEPENDENCE GROUP) AND WILL ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE CANARIAN PEOPLE. HE ASSERTED THE POLISARIO CONSIDERS SPAIN STILL TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWER IN THE SAHARA, AND REGARDING THE UPCOMING LUSAKA MEETING CALLED THE DIPLOMATIC BATTLE "IN A CERTAIN WAY SUBSIDIARY" TO THE MILITARY ONE, WHICH MOROCCO COULD NEVER WIN.

3. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (CASSINELLO) WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE TOPIC AND HAS DEALT IN THE PAST WITH POLISARIO LEADERS, THE POLISARIO CAUSE APPEARS TO HAVE MORE SUPPORT IN SPAIN THAN JUST THAT OF THE THREE PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE. THE DELEGATION IS BEING ESCORTED BY PLAIN-CLOTHES SPANISH POLICE WHILE IN MADRID, AND FOUR CABINET MINISTERS ARE ANGLING TO MEET WITH THE DELEGATION BEFORE IT DEPARTS. CASSINELLO, WHO APPARENTLY HAD JUST CONVEYED THAT INFORMATION TO FONMIN OREJA, TOLD EMBOFF THAT OREJA HAD BEEN SHOCKED TO HEAR IT, AND WOULD TAKE ACTION TO BLOCK THE MINISTERIAL CONTACTS.

4. CASSINELLO CONFIRMED THAT THE POLISARIO VISIT HERE IS PART OF A GENERAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORT (REF B) BEING CARRIED OUT MAINLY IN BLACK AFRICA WITH AN EYE ON THE LUSAKA MEETING, WHICH STILL FIGURES TO BE HELD. IN MADRID, ASIDE FROM ITS EFFORT TO DRUM UP GENERAL POLITICAL SUPPORT, THE DELEGATION IS TRYING TO GET THE GOS TO SEND CONFIDENTIAL

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A REPRESENTATIVE TO LUSAKA TO REITERATE THE POSITION TAKEN IN THE GOS LETTER OF FEBRUARY 1976 (TO THE EFFECT THAT THE REQUISITE CONSULTATION OF THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE). EMBOFF INFERRED THAT NO RESPONSE HAS YET BEEN MADE, BUT CASSINELLO DID NOT ELABORATE.

5. AS FOR THE MADRID AGREEMENTS, CASSINELLO SAID, THE RESON THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED IS THAT THEY WERE SO BADLY DRAWN UP AS TO BE POTENTIALLY OF GREAT EMBARRASSMENT. ASIDE FROM ESTABLISHING A TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION PENDING SPAIN'S WITHDRAWAL BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 1976, THE AGREEMENTS CONSISTED, SAID CASSINELLO, OF VARIOUS LETTERS REGARDING COOPERATION ON FISHING AND PHOSPHATES. DESPITE THE LETTERS' CONSIDERABLE LENGTH, HE ADDED, THEY WERE SO VAGUE THAT NOTHING EVER CAME OF THEM.

6. COMMENT: CASSINELLO'S SUBSEQUENT REMARK--THAT HE ALONE IN THE MINISTRY FAVORS SPAIN'S DECLARING ITSELF BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS UNABLE TO ADMINISTER THE SAHARA AND DEMANDING (IN EFFECT) THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TAKE OVER--SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS NOW SOME INTERNAL DEBATE ABOUT POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS OF THE GOS STANCE TO DATE ON THE SAHARA. PRESUMABLY ANY SUCH DEBATE

LOOKS TOWARD THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE LONG EXPECTED TO
BE BROUGHT BY THE POLISARIO'S SPANISH SUPPORTERS, AND MAY
ONLY SEEK SOME WAY OF TURNING ASIDE SUCH PRESSURES AT HOME
WHILE REMAINING FORMALLY ABSOLVED OF SAHARAN RESPONSIBILITIES.
CERTAINLY THE INDICATIONS SO FAR (SEE ALSO REF A) ARE THAT
SPAIN INTENDS TO KEEP TO A MINIMUM ITS PROBLEMS WITH BOTH OF ITS
NEAREST NORTH AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, AND WILL NOT MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS
TO ALGERIA IF TO DO SO MEANS BIG TROUBLE WITH MOROCCO. EATON

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Message Attributes

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